

Story 1417 (1989 Tape 7)

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Delayed Naming of Lambs

There was once a man who went on the pilgrimage to Mecca. While he was at Mecca, he learned just a few words of Arabic. When he returned to Turkey, however, he used to show off his knowledge of Arabic, and he pretended that he knew much more Arabic than he actually knew

One day while he was talking with several of his friends, he told them, "In Arabic they call a sheep kalem."¹

"Very well," said one of his friends. "Please tell us also what they call a lamb

The pilgrim was embarrassed by this question because he did not know the Arabic word for lamb. After thinking for a few seconds, he said, "They do not call a lamb anything until it is a year old. Then they call it kalem."

¹In Turkish the word kalem means pen or pencil.